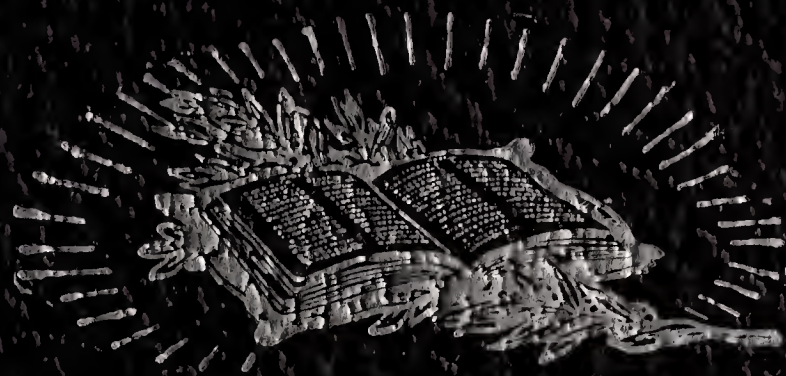




The Swedish Evangelical
Lutheran Church
Andover, Illinois

CENTENNIAL ALBUM

1850

1950

Centennial Jubilee Anniversary

COMMEMORATING
One Hundred Years of Parish Evangelization

June 16, 17, 18, 1950

Blessed are they that hear the
Word of God and keep it.
Luke 11:28

The Swedish Evangelical
Lutheran Church

Andover, Illinois



DEDICATION

This Centennial Album is gratefully dedicated to the charter members and early pioneers of the Lutheran faith in this community, who, by their prayers, labors and sacrifices, established this church to the glory of God and to the extension of His Kingdom.



Pastor and Mrs. Everett L. Bexell
Luther and Joel

FOREWORD

It is with thanksgiving and rejoicing that the Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Church of Andover, Illinois, celebrates her centennial anniversary. In accordance with the resolution of the Board of Administration and adopted by the Congregation, the dates of June 16-18 were chosen as the special dates for observing this great occasion. This memorial booklet will not attempt to give an exhaustive history of the congregation, but rather present a few snap shots of the past and present. May they also challenge and inspire us to seek still greater glories for Christ and His Church.

Everett L. Bexell, Pastor.



PARSONAGE AND GARAGE



CHURCH COUNCIL

(Philip Brodd was absent when this picture was taken)

At the annual business meeting of the Congregation held January 12, 1945, it was decided that each member should be urged to pay an extra \$10.00 or more per year, as he or she may see fit, for three years, to the Andover Lutheran Church, same to be set aside and used only for a church basement. These contributions together with several substantial gifts from church organizations increased the Building Fund considerably.

Ervin Nelson was elected chairman of the Finance Committee for our building project at the annual business meeting on December 2, 1947, and since that time the current members of the Board of Deacons have served on this committee. Through some very generous personal gifts donated voluntarily and a few solicited contributions, over \$30,000.00 has been contributed to this cause in the past three years. Mr. Frank A. Anderson, our Financial Secretary, has served efficiently and well to keep a strict account of all money received.



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

(N. O. Hultgren was absent when this picture was taken)

In connection with the annual business meeting held January 14, 1946, a Building Committee of fifteen members was elected namely: Rev. Everett L. Bexell, chairman; Ervin Nelson, secretary; Glenn Seaholm; Mrs. Gilbert V. S. Johnson; Mrs. Sherman Anderson; Duane Brodd; Edmund O. Rausch; Gladys Johnson Carlson; Ivan Peterson; LaVern H. Peterson; Doris Josephson; Mrs. Willis Bengston; Chester Hultgren; Mrs. Wesley Churling and N. O. Hultgren, Sr. This committee served almost two years and made worthwhile suggestions and proposed a number of ways in which to improve our church facilities.

The current Board of Trustees was made the Building Committee at the annual business meeting held December 2, 1947. They were authorized to appoint a committee to assist them if it was deemed necessary. These men have served conscientiously and well to serve the best interests of the congregation. For some time there was considerable difference of opinion which method of improvement was to be carried out—whether to make a basement, cut the church off and extend the balcony for social quarters, or to build a new annex. We are personally convinced that this latter procedure was the most practical and acceptable in the long run, and we are happy the congregation in a special meeting voted unanimously to build an annex.

Beside the present members of the Board of Trustees, the following men have served on the Building Committee: Wilbert Anderson, Glenn Seaholm, Franklin Stephenson and Harold Olson.



The Jenny Lind Chapel

The oldest and one of the best known houses of worship in the Augustana Synod is the little Jenny Lind Chapel in the village of Andover, Illinois. Funds for the construction were gathered by Lars Paul Esbjorn, the first pastor of the Swedish Evangelical Lutheran congregation here. In the spring of the year 1851 Pastor Esbjorn made a round trip of about 3,600 miles throughout the Lutheran churches of the German and American Synods along the eastern seaboard. On this financial campaign trip which lasted eleven weeks, the sum of \$2,200.00 was received. Of this amount, the well-known Swedish Nightingale, Jenny Lind, contributed the generous gift of \$1,500.00. Part of this money was used to build churches at Moline and New Sweden, Iowa, but the greater part, a sum equal to the gift of the great Swedish singer was used to build this church. This building forty-five feet long and thirty feet wide, was built with home made brick and hardwood lumber cut from the timber adjoining the village of Galesburg.

Immediately after the return of Pastor Esbjorn from his financial canvass in the East, the members began to make brick. But that fall the heavy rains destroyed much of their accomplishment. Many of the sawmills and the dams which held the mill ponds were swept away with the flood. Everything they had to buy was very expensive and had to be hauled or carried from their nearest trading center thirty miles away. Then winter came and put a stop to the work. Services had to be conducted in the kitchen of Pas-

tor Esbjorn's home or in the local school house.

The next year the building project was taken up again. That year the people suffered greatly from crop failure and unemployment, and worst of all from a terrible epidemic of cholera which took the lives of many church members. Several persons were buried in an unmarked trench grave about twenty rods northwest of this building. Much of the lumber which had been bought for the church had to be used for coffins. Many of the stricken immigrants were poor and there was no other way to give them a decent burial. It is interesting to note that those who were able to pay for the lumber and nails gave eighty-four cents for the materials used in their last resting place. Again the church building had to wait.

During the following winter the basement was used for services, though it was still unfinished and did not even have a complete roof. At one end there was an opening ten foot square where the tower was to have been built, but was never finished.

Not until the fall of 1854 was the church so near completion that it could be formally dedicated. This significant event took place on the First Sunday in Advent, December 3, 1854, with sermons both in Swedish and in English. The English sermon was preached by a neighboring Presbyterian pastor, with the consent of the Conference Convention assembled there.

The church was built in the most plain and prosaic form. There was no hint of churchly architecture. The building was rectangular in form, and the windows are likewise. The basement served as dwelling for many of the immigrants who could find no other place to live when they first arrived. Some of them died there.

It was considered a masterpiece when it was new, and could accommodate at the most three hundred persons. At one time a rectangular hole was cut in the chapel floor so that the overflow crowds could sit in the basement and hear the sermon and take part in the worship. It was also customary that two deacons be appointed to keep good order during the lengthy services. Though a new and beautiful church was erected in 1867, the old church still stands and is used as a chapel and museum. It is one of the significant landmarks of the Augustana Synod. To those who know something of the history of this church it typifies the spirit of the pioneers who had courage and faith to build for the future even in the midst of poverty, illness, privation and sorrow.

At the synodical convention of 1947, in Kansas City, Missouri, a petition from the Rock Island District for the restoration of the Jenny Lind Chapel and adjoining cemetery was referred to the Centennial Committee of the Augustana Lutheran Church, with power to act. The result was that over \$3,500.00 was spent for the building of a new roof, refinishing the floors, installing new screens, building and installing replicas of the original pews, altar and altar rail, resetting over fifty tombstones and markers in the old cemetery, and a number of other minor items. The effect of this work and the expenditure of this material has done wonders for this hallowed shrine.

On Sunday, June 13, 1948, after a most impressive morning worship

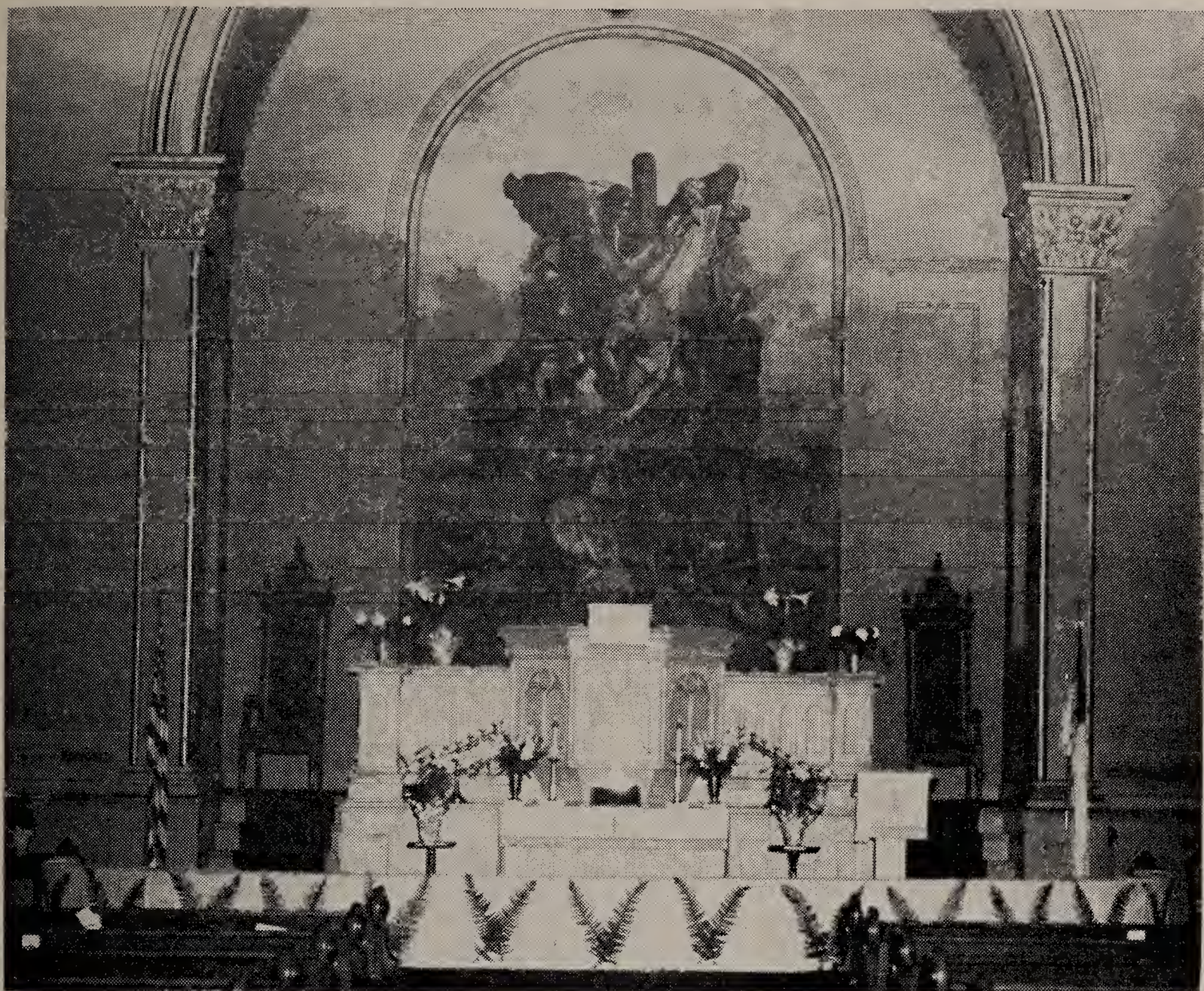
at the church, where Bishop Arvid Runestam and the Archbishop Erling Eidem had spoken, the church dignitaries of our Synod, and from Sweden, proceeded to the chapel steps. There Dr. Oscar A. Benson, president of the Illinois Conference, presented a profound and heart-stirring address. Dr. P. O. Bersell, president of the Augustana Church, then introduced several distinguished guests and on behalf of the Church accepted the Jenny Lind Chapel and the adjoining cemetery as a synodical shrine and dedicated it to that purpose. A bronze plaque was unveiled on this occasion and it will serve as a permanent reminder of this service.

Eight days later Prince Bertil, a group of twenty distinguished guests from Sweden and a large representation met at the chapel to unveil another bronze plaque as a gift of the Illinois State Historical Society and in conjunction with the Swedish-American Pioneer Centennial Association which was then having a series of large gatherings in several of the Swedish centers of population in our country.

Since the restoration of the Chapel, three weddings, seven baptisms, and a number of special services have been conducted there. Can it be that this simple little house of worship will become as famous as "The Little Brown Church," within the Augustana Lutheran Church?



INTERIOR OF JENNY LIND CHAPEL



CHURCH INTERIOR

Brief History

As an introduction it may be well to say a few words about the location of the little village of Andover, Illinois. "The Township of Andover" is in the southwestern part of Henry County, and the village is composed of a section of land laid out in ten-acre plots with streets that measure a full ninety-nine feet from fence to fence. The land in this community is as fertile as one can find in any place in the state of Illinois even though some of the farms have been cropped for almost a hundred years.

The first white man to arrive here was a certain Dr. Baker, who came here on May 6, 1835. In June of the same year the highly respected Pastor Ithamar Pillsbury, in company with Archibald Slaughter and Noah T. Pike, came to Henry County. The first Swedish immigrant to this area was a sailor by the name of Sven Nelson. Mariette Woolsey is reported to be the first white child born in Andover. She was later married to a Mr. Edmund Buck, a man who was held in high repute among the Swedes. The first Swedish couple to be married in Andover was the sea captain, P. W. Widerstrom and Johanna Sofia Lundquist, in the year 1847.

Mr. N. J. Johnsson and Nels Nelson were the first Swedish home owners and paid only \$1.25 per acre when they bought each a ten acre lot in An-

dover. But there were many difficulties and hardships, which must of necessity be omitted in such a brief resume as this is to be.

In the fall of 1849, Pastor L. P. Esbjorn came to this country in company with one hundred and forty immigrants from Gefle, on board the Swedish brig, "Cobden." Due to an attack of the cholera in Chicago, he was detained for three weeks before coming to Andover on St. Michael's Day. When he did arrive he was surprised and disappointed to learn that the majority of his followers had left Andover and continued on to Victoria at the invitation of a Methodist pastor, Jonas Hedstrom. But Esbjorn was not easily disheartened and began preaching to his people at the Francis school house as soon as he arrived, Sunday, October 24, even though he did have to sit down on account of his physical weakness, and we are assured that his labors were not in vain.

LARS PAUL ESBJORN (1850-1856)

On March 18, 1850, the Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Church of Andover, Illinois, was born at the old E. A. Mix place at the southwestern edge of the village, after a long and stormy meeting which lasted from 10:00 o'clock in the morning until 3:00 in the afternoon. Only ten members were included in the group that first Sunday, but four days later twenty-eight others expressed their desire and spiritual concern to join the fellowship of the congregation, so that since, the entire group has been considered our charter membership.

Dr. Eric Norelius mentions in his memoirs how he visited Esbjorn in November, 1850, with the following words: "I saw this congregation which had then grown in numbers somewhat, as it was assembled for divine worship in Pastor Esbjorn's kitchen, which was the largest room in the house, where we sat on loose boards around the kitchen stove. Then and there I heard Esbjorn preach for the first time. It was over the Judgment Sunday



SAMPLE CLASS IN ANNEX CLASS ROOM



SUNDAY SCHOOL STAFF

Gospel text and his sermon made a deep impression upon my mind.”

The group that probably helped him in his trials and encouraged him in his troubles was his family. His first wife, Amelia Maria Lovisa nee Gyllenboga, was a lady of nobility and had some means of her own. She built the first parsonage south of Andover with the money from her dowry. At one time when the pastor was hard pressed for funds and he was almost ready to compromise his doctrinal position and accept a parish in some other denomination, it was his wife who challenged him with the thought: “Were you not sincere when you made your ordination vows in Sweden—how then can you betray them now?” He lost both his first and his second wife, nee Helena Cathrina Magnuson, within a year. His third wife was Gustava Albertina Magnuson, a sister of the second, who had helped a great deal with the duties at the parsonage and was well acquainted and accomplished to take over the great responsibilities of the busy household.

Pastor Esbjorn moved to Princeton in the middle of August, 1856, and stayed there for two years; then he taught at Springfield for two years, until the beginning of Augustana, where he served until in 1863, when he went back to Sweden and became “kyrkoherde,” in Oster-Vala, where he died July 2, 1870, and is buried there.

JONAS SWENSON (1858-1873)

After considerable trouble with an assistant pastor by the name of B. G. P. Berglund, and having had several promised but no acceptances of calls, it was a great pleasure to know that Pastor Jonas Swenson, then in Sugar Grove, Pennsylvania, had accepted the call to come to Andover. He had considered the invitation for a long time with prayer and inner striving, but had finally accepted it as God’s will that he should move to Illinois. However, when he read his resignation it hurt him so to leave his folks in Pennsylvania without a spiritual shepherd that he almost weakened in his resolution.

The congregation numbered four hundred at the arrival of Pastor Swenson and people were immigrating to these parts continually. But with the remarkable order in instruction and powerful sermons preached by Swenson, the confused and troublesome congregation was quietened and became a model of Christian understanding and exemplary living. Probably an outstanding characteristic of his ministry here was his Christian anxiety for his parish evangelism program, especially as it became primarily his personal



PRIMARY DEPARTMENT

responsibility.

As early as in 1863, there was considerable discussion regarding the possible expansion of the church facilities since the chapel was too small. Several special meetings were called to decide upon the type of building material, width of the new building and whether or not there should be a cross at the spire, but the Swedish frontiersmen were generous also with their funds for the subscriptions totaled \$38,927.00 without many of the appointments and furnishing which were provided later. It may be interesting for future reference to know that the church is one hundred and twenty-five feet long and sixty feet wide; thirty-five feet high at the middle aisle and the tower with spire is one hundred and thirty-six feet high.

When the synod met here on June 15, 1870, it was to become an historic session in that the Norwegian brethren decided to withdraw from the convention; the Swedes joined the General Council instead and Pastor Swenson was elected president, a position he held until his death three and a half years later.

Pastor Swenson was a guiding spirit in the development of the Andover Children's home and as usual gave himself generously to further this a worthy cause. He passed away December 20, 1873, and was mourned by a grateful Church.

ERLAND CARLSON (1875-1887)

When Pastor Swenson died there was a baptized membership of 1,855 and a communicant membership of 951, but it was difficult to fill the vacancy. Pastor Olaf Olson was called twice from Lindsborg, Kansas, but he did not consider it to be in accord with God's will to accept the call to Andover. A Pastor D. A. Arnstrom, of Stockholm, Sweden, was called, but he declined on the pretext of poor health, sickness and sorrow in the family, needs in his own parish and no desire to come to America with its striving and inconveniences for one in his position. Finally, after a second call Pastor Carlson agreed to come on May 1, 1875. Under the vacancy a practical pipe organ for \$3,000.00 was installed in preparation for the conference meeting scheduled for that fall.



JUNIOR DEPARTMENT

In Pastor Carlson's first pastoral report he included the facts that (1) The new parsonage, thirty-six feet square and with a twenty-two foot kitchen built on was completed at a cost of \$3,609.36. (2) That the Sunday School had been classified, and (3) That Swedish school had been held in several of the districts the past year. During the year of 1880, a young people's society was organized and their first project was the establishment of a reading and loaning library.

The church bell was installed in 1881, weighing 2,371 pounds, and costing \$700.00. By the year 1882, the treasurer reported that the congregation was out of debt. Certainly the work and sacrifice to build and pay for a new church and a new parsonage of these proportions in twelve to thirteen years was no small undertaking. Several other projects were sponsored by various organizations, such as the colored windows, the altar painting and redecoration of the wooden ceiling.

Even with very large confirmation classes and new people coming into the community, the congregation was still losing in membership. The reason was simply the fact that new congregations were being organized and hundreds of people were moving westward to Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska and even to the west coast.

On July 27, 1887, Pastor Carlson moved to Rock Island, to become the comptroller of the Augustana College and Theological Seminary.

VICTOR SETTERDAHL (1888-1905)

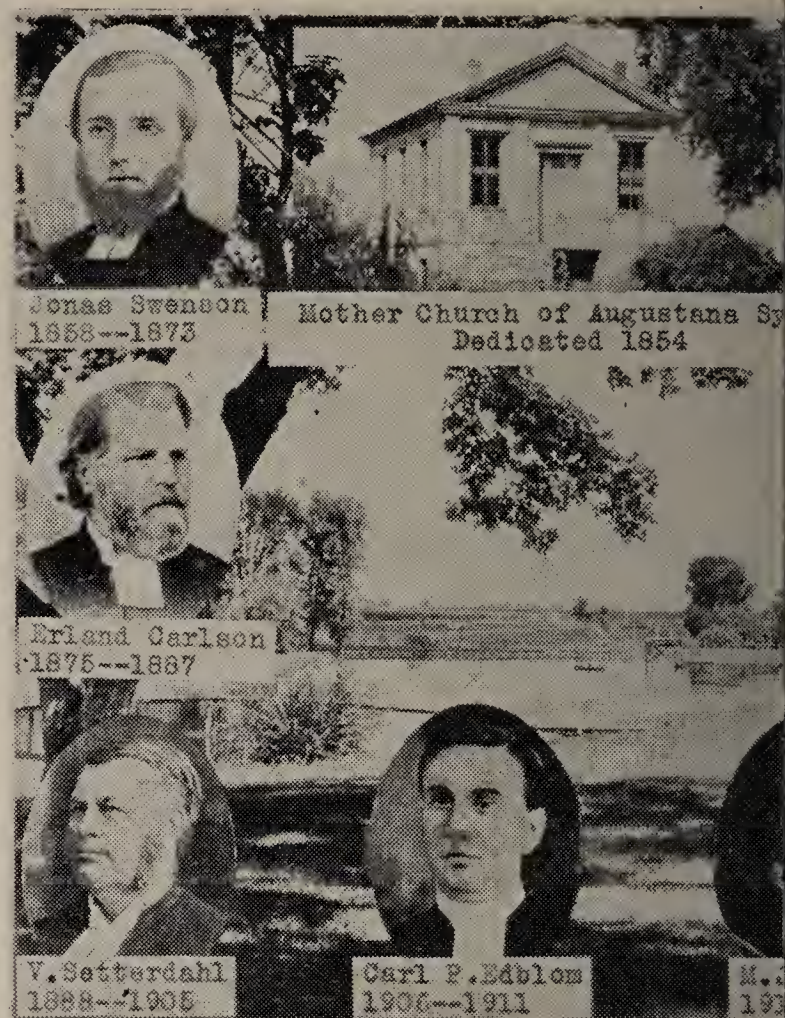
After two unsuccessful attempts to fill the vacancy, Pastor Victor Setterdahl, then pastor in Joliet, was called and he came here on Sept. 29, 1888. The next Saturday morning, October 1st, at 10:00 A.M. the congregation gathered to say farewell to their former pastor and bid the new shepherd welcome.

In the congregational minutes for 1888 we find that a motion was made to dig a new well at the church, which when it was completed, cost \$88.79. At the annual business meeting of 1891 it was decided to install new art glass windows and that the young people's society and the sewing society should be asked to help if the cost would be more than \$500.00. This was



"I am the good shepherd and know my sheep, and am known of mine."

"As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep."



CENTENNIAL

FRIDAY, JUNE 16th

8:00 P.M. HISTORICAL PAGEANT, "There Shall Be One Flock"

- Scene 1. "Laying out the Village"
- Scene 2. "Coming of the Swedes"
- Scene 3. "Organization of the Congregation"
- Scene 4. "Hardships Endured by the Pioneers"
- Scene 5. "Building of the Jenny Lind Chapel"
- Scene 6. "In Memory of the Civil War"
- Scene 7. "The New Church"
- Scene 8. "Parochial Schools"
- Scene 9. "Orders to Church Janitors"
- Scene 10. "Fire at the Home"
- Scene 11. "Farewell Blessing"
- Scene 12. "The Pastoral Album"
- Scene 13. "The Last Twenty Years"

SATURDAY, JUNE 17th

11:00 A.M. SWEDISH HOGMASSOGUDSTJANST.

Dr. Martin J. Laure, guest speaker

2:30 P.M. MEMORIAL SERVICE

Pastor Rubert A. Hull, guest speaker



“And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.”



PROGRAM

SUNDAY, JUNE 18th

9:30 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL AND BIBLE CLASS SERVICE

Pastor Arthur W. Almquist, guest speaker

10:30 A.M. THE HOUR OF DIVINE WORSHIP

Senior Choir: “Now Let Every Tongue Adore Thee”

Centennial Sermon: “The Christian Church—Ready, Willing and Able”
By Dr. C. O. Bengtson, President Illinois Conference.

Offertory:

12:15 P.M. CENTENNIAL DINNER SERVED IN THE ANNEX

2:30 P.M. CONFIRMATION REUNION, By Pastorates

Pastor	Represented by
Esbjorn	Rev. W. X. Magnuson
Swenson	Lester Swenson
Carlsson	F. A. Johnsson
Setterdahl	Fred Setterdahl
Edblom, Rev. Arthur W. Almquist	

Pastor	Represented by
Laure	Dr. M. J. Laure
Hemdahl	Mrs. G. E. Hemdahl
Herman	Rev. L. A. Herman
Hull	Rev. R. A. Hull
Bexell	Rev. E. L. Bexell



INTERMEDIATE DEPARTMENT

done and the effect has been well worth the effort.

In 1893 the congregation had the joyous privilege to be visited by Bishop Von Scheele. "His visit here as well as among the other of the congregations of this synod which he visited was a great encouragement and a pleasure for all concerned."

Modern conveniences were also on the march during these times, for it was in 1899 that the decision was made to install a telephone at the parsonage in contract with the Andover Mutual Telephone Company.

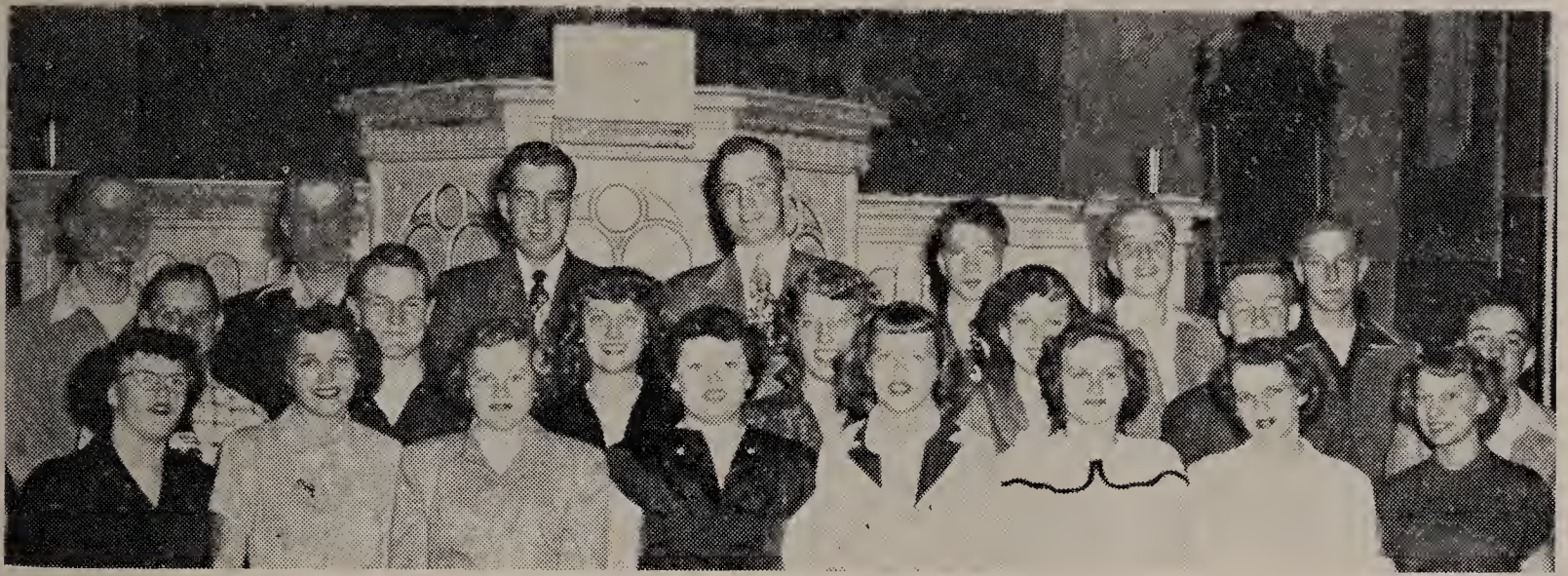
Pastor Setterdahl gave evidence of being a consecrated "man of God" with a great deal of common sense in regard to the business of the church. In his pastoral report given in 1902, he indicates that he had not only had regular services Sunday morning and evening, but also weekly Bible studies both at the church and at some of the school houses in the community at various times throughout the year. He was very much concerned about the faithful participation of the communicants at the Lord's Supper and quoted both Martin Luther's catechism and Hilarius to substantiate his statements.

Beside his pastoral duties he had many responsibilities in the community and in the conference, serving on the children's home board for twenty-six years and as chairman of the committee for seventeen years. Further he served as secretary of the Augustana Hospital Board, Treasurer of the Illinois conference and finally member and treasurer of the Synodical mission board. After seventeen and a half years here, he and his faithful wife moved to Chesterton, Indiana, March, 1905.

CARL P. EDBLOM (1906-1911)

The first this pastor knew of his call to Andover was when he read a notice of it in AUGUSTANA, although he knew that he had been recommended by a neighboring pastor and he had been here to visit and had been invited to speak. To begin with the candidate was somewhat uncertain in his mind as to what he should do with the call. But he had often thought and maybe even spoken about the opportunity to bring his large family into a rural parish. Thus it was that on the third of January, 1906, Pastor Edblom came to Andover in the middle of a snowstorm.

During the vacancy, Pastor N. Gibson, who was then superintendent



SENIOR DEPARTMENT

at the children's home had also conducted the services and administered the pastoral acts with some help from Augustana College. He now welcomed the new pastor most heartily and introduced him to his many tasks as leader of this congregation.

At the congregational meeting held in 1907 an important change was made in the practice of church finance. Hitherto the pastor had been the treasurer for the Board, but from this time on it is made an elected office from within the Board of Trustees. During this year also the young people's society was very busy. They installed a lighting system at the parsonage, built side walks, installed a kitchen sink and donated a new piano to the church.

A serious tragedy occurred at the children's home on December 27, 1908, when all but one fourteen year old boy had gone to church for the annual Christmas program. A fire broke out in the main building and destroyed it completely. This was just the opportunity that some had wanted to move the institution away from this community. But Pastor Edblom got busy and led a subscription for rebuilding and this was supported most generously. If the congregation had not felt this close kinship and responsibil-



ADULT DEPARTMENT



JUNIOR CHOIR

ity for this project there are all possibilities that the Home would have been moved away and the farm may have reverted to the heirs of the donors or to the former owners.

For the Sixtieth Anniversary Pastor Edblom wrote a fine history of the congregation with a number of human interest stories to make it very readable. It was well illustrated and had a broadness of approach that was much appreciated. The only trouble now is that it was written in Swedish and few of our constituency are conversant with the language.

MARTIN J. LAURE (1912-1923)

The sixth regular pastorate at Andover was that of Dr. Martin J. Laure, scholar, musician, gentleman-farmer. Fifty young men of the congregation marched under the colors during the fateful days of the First World War, when he served here as pastor. Two gold stars appeared on the large silk service flag at the church in commemoration of the two soldiers who gave their last full ounce of devotion to their country and their flag. As a permanent record a large Bronze Memorial Tablet, on the east pillar of the main entrance of the church, was placed with not only the names of World War I. veterans, but also the names of Civil War veterans, as well. The cost of this memorial was defrayed by the Lutheran Brotherhood, an organiza-



SENIOR CHOIR



LOYAL LADIES AID

tion which came into being just a few years before.

The twelve confirmation classes which Dr. Laure instructed and brought into fellowship with the congregation held regular reunions for a number of years. At the reunion held in July, 1923, a photograph was taken of the twelve classes all assembled with very few, if any, absences. Certainly this was an evidence of personal loyalty and we trust that these classes have also proven faithful to the Lord and Savior of their confirmation vows. This group then gave a color painting of Jenny Lind by the world reknown artist Gravstrom, which now has the place of honor at the Chapel.

Several physical improvements were made on the church property at this time—building of the front porch on the parsonage, construction of a cement sidewalk from the church to the parsonage and chapel, bringing alternating current from Orion to Andover and to the church, and a number of other noteworthy items of interest.

Dr. Laure had great talent in music and in leadership, especially when preparing for a children's program. Then rehearsals would not be called off until the program was thoroughly prepared and everyone knew exactly his place. Of course there were times when the programs became a bit lengthy, but was due to the practice that every child was to have a separate selection.

GUSTAV E. HEMDAHL (1923-1927)

Due to ill health and a weakened physical condition, Pastor Hemdahl was destined to have a brief ministry in Andover. He was exceptionally effective as a parish evangelist both in preaching and teaching, as well as in his pastoral visitation and personal counseling. One of his first goals after



BROTHERHOOD



WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY

coming here as pastor was to make a family call upon all the members of the congregation with his entire family within the first year in Andover. We do not know if he succeeded entirely, but certainly it was a most important way to become best acquainted with his membership.

The principal thing of historic interest during his pastorate was the celebration of the Diamond Anniversary. The event was to have been observed on March 18, 1925, but due to road conditions it was postponed until May 17-24. One former pastor and several members of former pastors' families were in attendance, as were also several Conference and Synodical leaders. Several sons of the congregation were also home for the event and took part in the festive program. During the fall previous to this anniversary, a pageant, written by Rev. L. E. Jones, depicting the coming of the pioneer Swedish Lutherans to Illinois, was given in the church under the direction of Miss Elsie Ostrom, of Moline, with a cast of one hundred and twenty-five people from Rock Island, Moline, Andover and Cambridge.

During his pastorate here the church was covered with a fire-proof



SORORIS DANTIS



HOSPITAL CIRCLE

roof, the church spire was painted and a gilded copper cross was erected on the spire, to take the place of one that had blown down. Some minor improvements were made on the parsonage and in the basement of the chapel.

Pastor Hemdahl passed away at his home in Rock Island, Illinois, on January 19, 1947, almost twenty years after he retired from the active ministry here in Andover. He was indeed fortunate in having his devoted wife with him to the very last. It was a wonder how she was able to bear up under the burden and carry all her responsibilities as well as she did.

LINUS A. HERMAN (1927-29)

According to a letter received from Pastor Herman today we learn that he served this congregation just twenty-three months. But in this short time he made several very valuable contributions to the congregational life, practice and attitude toward the Church at large. His reverence for the accepted doctrines of the church, details of Christian liturgy and even the correct pronounciation of frequently mispronounced words in Scripture were respected and are remembered even today. There were great differences of opinion on several mooted subjects and expression was given freely and certainly we have all benefited thereby.

During his ministry here most of the money required for redecorating the interior of the church auditorium was raised. He was also instrumental in building the sacristy, a very important addition to the grand old church structure. His recommendation for having combined meetings of the Circles of the Loyal Ladies' Aid Society has been a great simplification of the work of our women's auxiliaries.

It was he who said in 1927: "Hats off for the past—Coats off for the



MR. AND MRS. SOCIETY

future! Although 'Andover' is a familiar name in the Augustana Synod, few of its members have ever seen the place, because of its 'out of the way' location. But the days of Andover's isolation are at an end. The building of the hard road through our village will commence early in the spring, and when it is completed, we will be on the main road between the quad-cities via Kewanee and points east to Chicago. It is a foregone conclusion that this great improvement will mean a considerable increase in the number of visitors to this historic place. We must therefore begin now to make plans for the improvement of our buildings and grounds so that they will reflect credit on our present membership and prove that we are worthy descendants of worthy sires." That rule for noble living has never changed.

RUBERT A. HULL (1930-1943)

The horse and buggy days were almost over by the time Pastor Hull came to Andover from the great Swedish metropolis of Rockford. In one of his early pastoral reports he mentions the fact that fifty to sixty men had



LUTHER LEAGUE

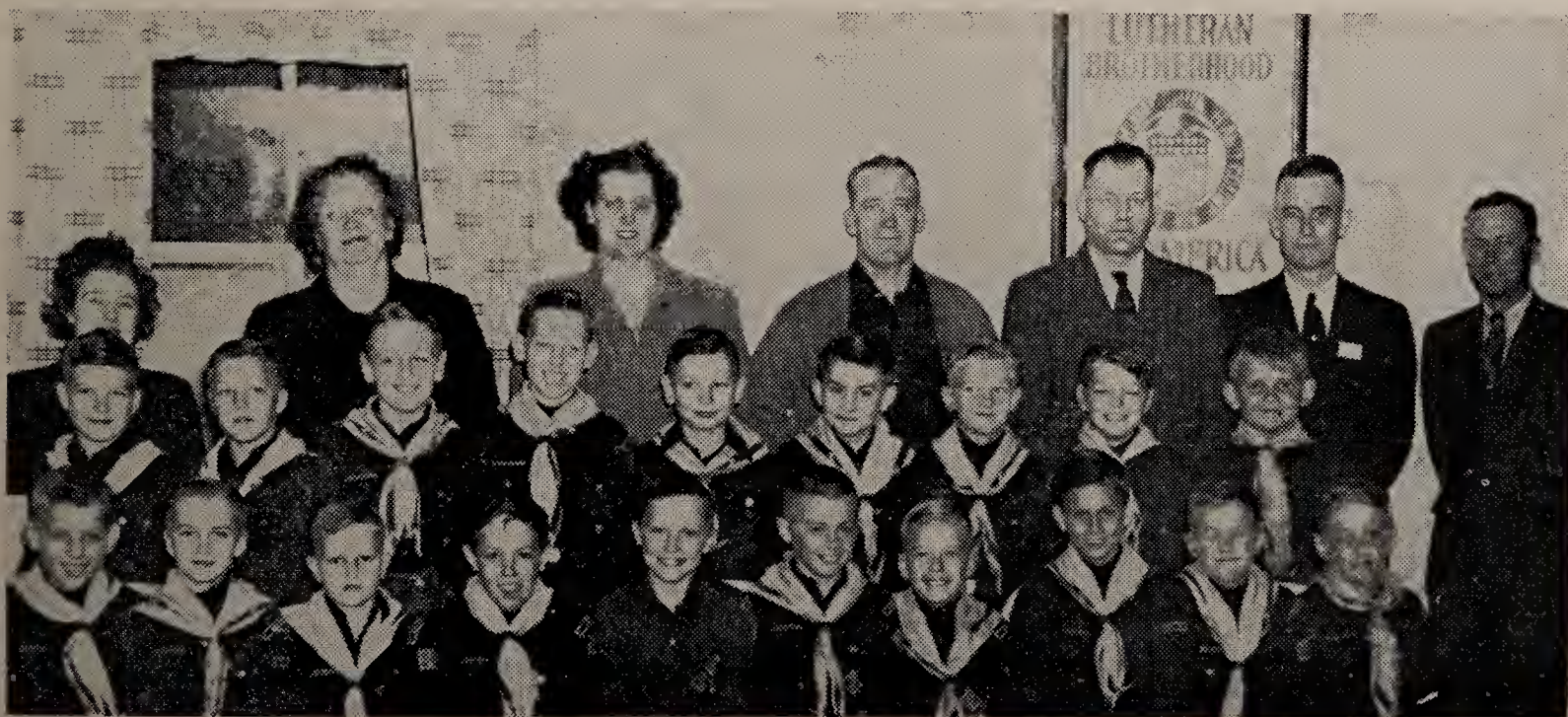


BOY SCOUTS

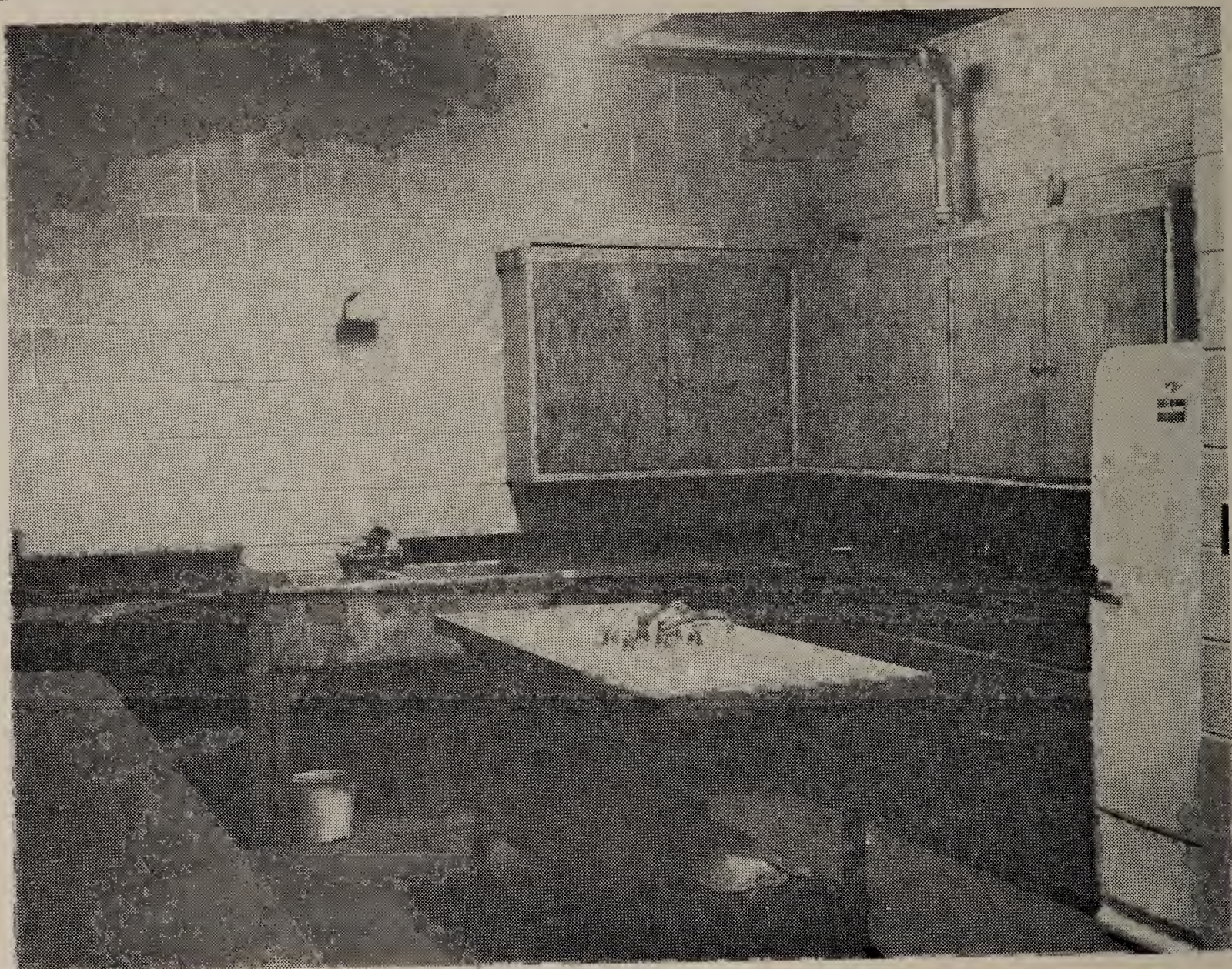
gathered at the church barns with the intent to remove them since old dobbin had nearly ceased to bring folks to church and the few that were still in service did not seem to mind the weather. But the great financial depression of the thirties made a great impression on the folks in these areas. More people were out of work and staying at home instead of going on to college or getting work in the cities. But the dreaded influence of melancholy and hopelessness gave our church even a greater challenge to face and conquer. Pastor Hull did well to place his people in contact with God's will through regular cottage prayer meetings and Bible Studies, as well as through his regular divine worship services.

During this period the great subject of which was the oldest congregation in the Augustana Lutheran Church was brought to the limelight and now it seems as if we are asked to take a second place, giving super-annuity to New Sweden, Iowa, but that is not so important after all: It is much more important that our names are written in God's Book of Life and that we are members of His Kingdom.

A beautiful Esbjorn Memorial marker was erected in a little park along the highway in our village on November 15, 1936. The dedication was made by Dr. P. O. Bersell, president of the Church, and the main address was



CUB SCOUTS



ANNEX KITCHEN

given by Dr. G. A. Andreen. The auditorium of the chapel was renovated in 1938, and several improvements were made in its facilities.

During his ministry here, Pastor Hull and the entire congregation were cheered by the announcement that another confirmand of this church was to enter the ministry. Certainly there are many openings for full time Christian service in the church today. May we challenge the young people of our congregation to consider this call of the Lord into one of these various harvest fields—white unto harvest.

After a blessed and successful ministry of over thirteen years here, Pastor Hull and his family moved to Avoca, Minnesota. Now they are just getting settled in Lake City, Minnesota, after having served several years in Mediapolis, Iowa.

EVERETT L. BEXELL (1944—)

The present pastor took up the work here on October 19, 1944, coming from Osceola, Nebraska. It was indeed a pleasure to move into a completely remodeled and redecorated parsonage and with a number of members ready to help move the furnishings right into place. At first only twelve hundred dollars was appropriated for the improvement of the parsonage, but when it was realized how much was needed, the complete renovation was authorized and cost about \$5,000.00.

Among the countless impressions that crowd in upon us, is the fact



ANNEX DINING ROOM

that it was deemed necessary for the world to go through another experience of total war. There were sixty-nine young men and women from our congregation scattered over the far flung battle fronts of the world in a death struggle for survival. But God blessed our faith and honored their courage. There was only one fatality among them and that was an accident that could have happened in civilian life.

After waiting for eighty years and praying, planning, preparing, discussing and gathering funds for four years, it was a thrill to see our people accept the idea of an annex unanimously. It will cost over \$43,000.00 when it is completely furnished, but both the members and friends have been quite generous, so that only about \$10,000.00 will be outstanding when the building is complete. This will give us more adequate Sunday School rooms and social facilities for the various organizations, especially the youth activities; convenient serving equipment; adequate automatic heat; modern rest rooms and educational-recreational opportunities as we have never had before. Dr. C. O. Bengtson, President of the Illinois Conference, was here last Reformation Sunday, October 30, 1949, to dedicate the building and it has been used for several months to the satisfaction of all.

When we came to Andover, Pastor Martin B. Lingwall had been serving as vice pastor for several months and had certainly done a very fine job getting things ready and various projects out of the way before we arrived.

Missionary Ruben Pedersen served during the summer before we arrived, and had done a number of fine things beyond his call of duty—like conducting a first rate Vacation Bible School, making between three hundred and fifty and four hundred personal calls to complete a community canvas, and interesting several young people in Bible Camps and full-time Christian service. We are now continuing these challenges through our Parish Evangelism Visitation and trust that it will be a blessing in extending Christian service.

In addition to the many gifts and donations made in connection with our building project there are a number which will have especial interest. Our church was chosen by a synodical committee to receive a beautiful triplate painting of the Passion Story as a gift of the church people of Sweden, produced by a Swedish artist, and presented by the Archbishop while here for the great festivities of the Centennial in 1948. The Luther League has given a grand piano, a sound projector and a set of green paraments; the Sororis Dantis Y. W. M. S. gave the cabinet and drapes in the annex and the fair linen for the altar. The Mr. and Mrs. Society has furnished the cabinet for the paraments, built the Sunday School tables and finished the Sunday School screens; the Hospital Circle gave the ladies' rest room equipment; Memorial gifts include a lecturn, the white paraments and four items for the altar, a public address system, a clock in the annex, an outside illuminated bulletin board, over a hundred music edition Hymnals. The Ladies' Aid as a society gave over \$3,000.00 in cash to the building project, furnished the new electric refrigerator and gas stove for the annex and completed our set of paraments; they bought twenty confirmation robes, laid new linoleum in the church entrance, and installed a new kitchen sink at the parsonage. Black choir robes were purchased by the Senior Choir in 1945. Now a project that is receiving great attention is the gathering and identifying of confirmation pictures and placing them in a multiplex given by the confirmation class of 1948. Money was given for a bulletin board in the annex by the confirmation class of 1949. The Sunday School purchased two dozen small chairs for the Primary Department and the Lutheran Brotherhood has offered to assist with the labor to construct a sidewalk from the annex entrance to the street.

So the work of the church goes on from age to age and may we ever continue to be about the Father's Business in its many and varied aspects. The history of the Christian Church is "His Story" among His people.



THE ANDOVER CHILDREN'S HOME

The history of the Andover Lutheran Church and the Lutheran Home for Children at Andover, Illinois, have developed side by side for now over eighty long years. Under the personal guidance of Pastor Jonas Swenson, then pastor of the Andover congregation and president of the Synod, the work of the Children's home was begun. Mr. and Mrs. S. P. Lindell served as the first manager and the first child was Edward Berg from Galesburg, received October 31, 1867. The first year three children were admitted and were kept in the Lindell home in Swedona.

Property had been purchased near Paxton in 1864 for an Orphan's Home and Farm School but this was not developed and was sold to the Board of Directors of the Augustana Seminary and building begun on an acre plot in Swedona. But Rev. Swenson was not satisfied with that arrangement and so negotiated the purchase of the original 160 acre Home farm in Andover Township for \$5,100.00 or less than \$32.00 per acre. The directors accepted the transaction at a meeting, September 25, 1870, and expressed, "their gratitude first to God, the Father of the fatherless, and then expressed to Rev. Jonas Swenson for his care and effort in the raising of funds, and for closing the purchase."

Thus the work of inner missions has developed in our community through perilous times and in times of prosperity. The first and only serious calamity threatening the existence of the Home occurred the 27th day of December, 1908, when all the occupants of the Home, with the exception of one boy, attended the Sunday School Christmas festival in the Andover Church. At the close of the program, the first people to leave the church noticed the reflection of a fire in the direction of the Home. It was a disheartening sight to see the Home in ruins but immediate plans were made to rebuild. And with the contribution of food, clothes and shelter for the children for an entire year the immediate community contributed over \$10,000.00 in gifts and services.

The cooperation of Home and the Church has always been accomplished in a very fine way, and we are happy to report that the present plans and developments have been to the advantage of all concerned. Mr. Edmund O. Rausch took up his duties of Superintendent on November 1, 1945, and has proven himself an excellent administrator of the multitudinous responsibilities that are left as his concern.

We pray as the plans and preparations for the new cottage materialize that the Home may serve its large constituency even better. That the children may grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. And as our Lord in His youth developed so may they "grow in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man."

